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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,180	02/13/2004	Friedrich Muller	P7379.0US	2179
30008	7590	05/04/2007	EXAMINER	
GUDRUN E. HUCKETT DRAUDT LONSSTR. 59 WUPPERTAL, 42289 GERMANY				JOHNSON, VICKY A
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3682				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/04/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/708,180	MULLER, FRIEDRICH
	<b>Examiner</b> Vicky A. Johnson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-16,18,22 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 6-8,16,18 and 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 9-15, and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 14, 15, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al (US 4,791,831).

Behnke et al disclose a casing comprising casing parts (8,9) and fastening elements (17, 21), wherein the casing parts are connected to one another by the fastening elements, wherein the fastening elements are screws (col. 4 lines 10-23), that are located inside and concealed within the casing parts and inaccessible from the exterior of the casing when the casing is flanged to a motor casing (see Figs 5 and 6), wherein the fastening elements do not project to the exterior of the casing parts and the exterior of the casing has a continuous contour that is free of edges, corners, projections, recesses, and steps caused by the fastening elements or by recesses for receiving the fastening elements so that dirt particles and germs are prevented from depositing on the exterior of the casing (see Fig 6).

Re claim 3-5, the threaded bores are in an end face of the second casing (col. 4 lines 4-17).

Re claim 9, the first casing has an inner side thicker near the through openings than adjoining areas (see Fig 5).

Re claim 10, the casing parts have end faces that rest against each other (see Fig 6).

Re claim 11, the casing parts have identical contours with no step (see Fig 6).

Re claims 14 and 15, the first casing part has a casing member formed as a monolithic part projecting laterally (see Fig 2).

Re claim 22, the casing is a transmission casing (see Fig 2).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behnke et al (US 4,791,831) in view of Kitahata et al (US 6,209,409).

Behnke et al disclose a casing as described above, but do not disclose a protective layer covering a parting line between the casing parts that adjoin each other, which is paint.

Kitahata et al teaches the use of a protective layer (54) covering a parting line between the casing parts that adjoin each other, which is paint (col. 4 lines 21-57).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the casing of Behnke et al to include the protective layer as taught by Kitahata et al in order to prevent corrosion (col. 4 lines 50-65).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 6-8, 16, 18, and 23 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

Some further comments regarding the applicant's remarks are deemed appropriate.

The applicant argues that the Behnke reference fails to disclose screws used as fastening elements. Column 4 lines 10-23 disclose the fastening elements as being screws.

The applicant's remarks have been accorded due consideration, however, they are not deemed fully persuasive.

***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6217. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Vicky A. Johnson 4/5/07  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3682